



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2011
Town of Brookfield, CT
Board of Finance

Contact: William N. (Bill) Tinsley
Chairman, Board of Finance
203-775-9674

Brookfield Board of Finance has finalized its FY 2012 budget recommendation

Following two public hearings on April 9th, and April 14th, the Brookfield Board of Finance finalized its budget proposal at its April 19th special meeting. The Board of Finance budget proposal, to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, May 3, requests a total appropriation of \$55,464,000 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012. Overall, this is a 3.1% increase in spending over the current year.

Of the total appropriation requested, Education is budgeted for \$36,300,000 (a 2.5% increase). Education costs are driven primarily by rising health care benefit costs, contractual obligations for salary increases, increased contributions to the town's defined benefit pension plan, and rising utility/fuel costs. These rising costs have been substantially off-set by an early retirement incentive program, and by the implementation of a new "COMP MIX" health care plan.

The Town Government budget request is \$19,164,000 (a 4.4% increase). This cost increase also results from higher premium costs for healthcare benefits, higher costs for utilities and fuel, and substantially increased contributions to the pension plan.

The Board of Finance budget proposal is \$577,054 less than the amount originally requested by the Board of Selectmen. The final budget recommendation resulted from a number of budget workshops that included contributions by the First Selectman, and the Board of Education. The final proposal also reflects input received at the public hearings.

If adopted by referendum of Brookfield voters, the Board of Finance budget proposal would require a 2.9% increase in the mill/property tax rate (from 19.47 mills to 20.04 mills). The annual property tax on a home assessed at the median value (\$308,470) would be \$6,181.74, an increase of \$175.83.

Annual Town Meeting Information

Tuesday, May 3, 2011, 7:30 p.m. at Brookfield High School (auditorium)